



**STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
POLICY DIRECTIVE**

Policy No. DOC 4.5.14	Subject: OFFENDER HEALTH ASSESSMENTS
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Section 5: Health Care for Secure Facilities	Effective Date: Jan. 1, 1998
Signature: /s/ Bill Slaughter, Director	Revision Date: April 18, 2006

I. POLICY

The Department of Corrections facility health care units will ensure that offenders receive initial and periodic health assessments to provide for their ongoing health care needs.

II. APPLICABILITY

The secure facilities that include Riverside and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facilities, Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison, Treasure State Correctional Training Center, and the private and regional facilities contracted to the Department of Corrections.

III. REFERENCES

- A. *ACA Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 2003*
- B. *National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2003*
- C. *DOC Policy 4.5.13, Intake/Reception Health Screening*

IV. DEFINITIONS

Health Assessment – A medical evaluation of an individual's health status, including questioning any symptomatology.

Physical Examination – An objective, hands-on medical evaluation of an individual to determine the presence or absence of physical signs of disease.

Health Care Providers – Licensed health care providers (e.g., physicians, nurses, psychiatrists, dentists, and mental health practitioners), including contracted or fee-for-service providers, responsible for offender health care and treatment.

V. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES

A. General Requirements

1. Facilities that operate diagnostic and intake programs will complete an initial health assessment on each offender within seven days of arrival. The initial health assessment will include, but is not limited to:
 - a. a review of the initial health screening results;
 - b. the collection of additional data to complete the medical, dental, and mental health histories;
 - c. a recording of vital signs (i.e., height, weight, pulse, blood pressure, and temperature);

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- d. a physical examination (including breast, rectal, and testicular exams as indicated by the patient's gender, age, and risk factors);
 - e. pelvic and Pap examinations for women;
 - f. laboratory and/or diagnostic tests for communicable diseases including sexually transmitted diseases; and
 - g. initiation of therapy and immunizations as appropriate.
2. Health care providers must perform the hands-on portion of the health assessment.
3. A registered nurse may perform the hands-on portion of the health assessment when:
 - a. the nurse completes appropriate training approved or provided by the responsible physician; and
 - b. the responsible physician documents his or her review of all health assessments.

B. Modified Health Assessments

1. Health assessments are not required for readmitted offenders when:
 - a. the previous health assessment was performed within the past 12 months; and
 - b. the offender's current initial health screening status shows no change.
2. Offenders re-entering a secure facility within 12 months of release will receive a modified health assessment to include, but not limited to:
 - a. review of the health record;
 - b. review of the intake/reception health screening results;
 - c. collection and review of laboratory and diagnostic tests to detect communicable disease; and
 - d. recording and review of height, weight, pulse, blood pressure, and temperature.

C. Periodic Health Assessments

1. The facility physician and Department medical director will determine the frequency and content of periodic health assessments based on:
 - a. offender age, gender, and overall health needs; and
 - b. protocols promulgated by nationally-recognized professional medical organizations.

D. Records

1. Health care providers will enter the collected and reviewed data during the health assessment in the offender health record at the time of the assessment.

E. Restrictions

1. Health care providers will document any health-related restrictions on an offender's housing, work, or other activities, and communicate these restrictions to the appropriate facility staff.

F. Informing Offenders

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1. Health care providers will:

- a. inform the offender of test results and any recommendations for further evaluation, referral, or treatment; and
- b. provide health education and disease prevention information to offenders during initial and periodic assessments.

VI. CLOSING

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Department medical director.